



MEDIA ADVISORY



Los Angeles Area
FIRE MARSHALS
ASSOCIATION

County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health & Los Angeles Area Fire Marshals Association co-host "Hoarding" Conference in Long Beach

WHAT: Second Annual "Hoarding" Conference

WHERE: Long Beach Convention Center Grand Ball Room
300 East Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, 90802

WHEN: May 17-18, 2006 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.)

CONTACT: Ken Kondo, Public Information Officer, (213) 381-8135

LOS ANGELES (Thu., May 4, 2006) – Hoarding is the excessive collection and retention of things or animals that interferes with day-to-day functions. According to the Center for Disease Control, hoarding has become pandemic with more than three million cases reported per year in the United States. Severe hoarding, often referred to as "pack-ratting," is recognized as a mental health, public safety and health hazard problem. The County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health and Los Angeles Area Fire Marshals Association are co-hosting the Second Annual Hoarding Conference.

The two-day conference will feature informational sessions designed to develop partnerships as well as train those who will encounter and provide support services to these individuals, including mental health professionals, firefighters and law enforcement officers, animal control officers, judges, lawyers, conservators and trustees, first responders, public health, adult protective services, and other interested parties. The following is a list of topics that will be covered:

Legal:

- "Effective Legal Strategies"
(Gregory P. Palmer, J.D. Law Offices of Jones & Mayer)
- "Alternative Legal Strategies: Cooperation, Conservatorships and More" &
"Before the Crisis: A Proactive Approach"
(Bet Tzedek, House of Justice)
- "Eviction: A Reality"
(Sergeant John Fernandez, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Eviction Program)

(more)

SECOND ANNUAL “HOARDING” CONFERENCE

Page 2-2-2-2

Mental Health:

- “Clinical Treatment of Compulsive Hoarding”
(Karron Maidment, RN, LMFT, Program Coordinator UCLA Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Intensive Treatment Program)
- “Treatment Skills Building”
(Gail Steketee, Ph.D., Dean ad Interim, Professor Boston University School of Social Work)
- “Psychology of Cluttering”
(Lila Gruzen, Ph.D., MFT)

Public Safety & Code Enforcement:

- “Nuisance Abatement: Civil & Criminal Tools”
(Los Angeles Citywide Nuisance Abatement Team)
- “Thinking Outside the Box”
(Dennis Bogard, L.A. Fire Inspector and Brad Dotts, Long Beach Fire Inspector)

Animal Care & Control:

- “When Love is not Enough”
(Christine Franco, Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control)

Resources:

- “Hoarding Clutter Scale”
(National Study Group on Chronic Disorganization)
- “Dramatization: APS Intervention Methods”
(Los Angeles County Adult Protective Services)
- “Tips for Organizing Hoarders”
(Dorothy Breininger, Chief Executive Officer, Center for Organization)
- “Local Resources Partnership Model”
(City of Buena Park & County of Orange)

Attendees will receive 7.75 hours of EMT, MCLE CEU credit, in addition nurses, social workers and marriage family therapists will earn up to 8.5 hours of California BRN and BBS continuing education credit. Registration forms are now available at www.HoardingLA.org or www.lafiremarshals.org.

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